

## Westland declared 'safe'



Safe Community Coalition co-ordinator Derek Blight, right, and Westland Mayor Bruce Smith accept a certificate which recognises Westland as a safe place to live, work and invest. Safe Communities Foundation NZ chief executive Tania Peters and trustee Laurie Gabites, left, delivered the accreditation, which is a first for the West Coast and recognises Westland among more than 350 communities in the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network. Representatives of key social service agencies such as West Coast police and fire services, ACC, Department of Internal Affairs, WestREAP, Community and Public Health and Poutini Waiora were also present. Mr Blight said the certificate was the culmination of four years of work among the organisations to develop and implement projects and programmes in areas such as youth development, water, road safety and the elderly. The work had strengthened community networks and community resilience, he said.

PICTURE: Janna Sheen